

Meeting Minutes

Meeting: ABAC

Date: April 19, 2017

Time: 7:30 – 9:30 PM

Attendees: Executive board members: Christopher Tonkin, Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Doug Greenfield, Ron Sender, Phil Goff
Advisory members and other attendees: Nat Strosberg, Rod Holland, Elizabeth Shea, Maggie Stanley, Doug Mayo-Wells, Joey Glushko, Brandon Kelly (COBWEB officer), Adam MacNeill, Seth Federspiel

February minutes: Approved

COBWEB: The COBWEB officer, Brandon Kendall, had no updates/news to report. No COBWEB officer is assigned to participate regularly as a representative to ABAC.

Safe Center project: Seth provided a report from TAC: the HAWK signal is almost ready to go, with a few steps remaining before the signal's turned on (probably early summer). A video explaining how it works will be on the Town website and the local cable access channel. The bike lane striping is coming soon.

Left turns at Arlington Center intersection: Attendees discussed how cyclists are supposed take a left turn from Mystic Street onto Massachusetts Avenue (eastbound) in the new design of the intersection. The assumption in the design was that cyclists would follow the pedestrian walk signals (i.e., follow 2 pedestrian crossings). Many cyclists (possibly the majority) use the vehicle left turn lane and the left turn signal. Stephan explained that there had been a diagonal path for turning cyclists proposed during the design phase, but that diagonal path was not installed because the town thought it would encourage pedestrians to follow that path. Without lane markings for cyclists, the intersection may be dangerous for left-turning cyclists. Seth suggests submitting detailed questions to DPW about the issue.

Bike share: Seth reported that there was a bike share meeting at the end of March; attendees included Adam, Jenny, Nat, Seth, and Maggie; Motivate (the company that runs Hubway); and MAPC (Metropolitan Area Planning Council). Contracting is still underway. The other communities—Somerville, Brookline, and Cambridge—are still finalizing their contracts. Motivate is looking for a Title sponsor—i.e., a sponsor for the full system. For new communities, there will be less money available. The level of funding is still not known. Once contracts are settled, we'll have a better understanding for surrounding communities. The title sponsor would be the umbrella. Local or individual sponsors could sponsor local features such as an individual station. For Arlington moving forward, it will be a matter of the Town's willingness to make the first capital investment. It is possible to make it in time for Fall Town Meeting (for Spring 2018 launch).

Next steps for the bike-share committee: Arlington stake holders reconvene to discuss what some of the thresholds would be, how much soliciting for support will be appropriate, etc. The group hopes that MAPC can work to coordinate among the other towns. Vision 2020 –surveys are still be digested. Summer will be about lining up support: both financial and town meeting support. For more information on solicitations, Nat suggests contacting specific attorneys (contact Nat for the names). There was also a suggestion to see what other communities are doing with respect to sponsorships.

Appointment of a new member to the ABAC Board: should happen at next Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Bike counts: Nat reported that, unfortunately, the MAPC contact for automatic counts has left MAPC. We agreed to try for May 27 and May 30 for this year's counts.

Bikeway 25th anniversary celebrations: Community Access Cable invited Christopher to be interviewed about the Bikeway celebration. Xtopher will be speaking with the celebration committee at the upcoming meeting. Anybody else who wants to be involved can contact Christopher. The room at Common Ground Bar & Grill is booked for the annual social, Monday the 22nd, 6:30 to 9pm. Jack will post in the newspaper, Christopher will send an announcement to other bike committees.

Tour of Arlington: Sunday 9:30 meeting at Hurd field for test ride. Hurd field, Great Meadows, community farm, ending at Old Schwamb Mill. Christopher has requested police escort for the 5/21 event.

Spring cleanup: Phil reported that EALS is sponsoring a cleanup of the Alewife Greenway on Earth Day (Saturday April 22).

EALS proposal for Donnelly commemoration: Because Senator Donnelly was such an important advocate of the Mass. Ave. Project, EALS is proposing to name an intersection after him and installing a commemorative plaque. ABAC members support the proposal and support placing a commemorative plaque close to a bike lane.

Bikeway crossing at Lake S: Design review committee has been formed; first meeting is April 25.

Mile markers and signage on the Bikeway: Lexington is interested in repurposing the old granite mile markers. Rod will photograph the markers in Arlington. Following Lexington's sign effort, Arlington may want to determine the extent to which we want to follow suit. Rod advocates not removing the ballasts with bicycle seats. Christopher will provide a list of the signs that Lexington will be planning (from tri-town meeting).

Bicycle safety advocacy: Prompted by a discussion of laws related to car-bicycle accidents, Christopher noted an emerging discussion about how much we, as a tri-town organization, want to be a lobbying organization to advocate for legislation related to bicycle safety. The group noted that this is a role that MassBike plays but to continue to consider ABAC's role with respect to safety regulations.

Greenway bikeway rerouting: Gas transmission work will disrupt the intersection of Alewife Brook and Mystic River, which will result in a temporary rerouting of the Alewife Greenway. Nat will get in touch with DCR to find who the point person is to coordinate with, to insure that the rerouting is appropriate.

Bikeway etiquette: Stephen reports that he gets about one letter a month about the Bikeway and pedestrian and cyclist behavior. Bikeway etiquette guidelines are posted on the Bikeway website <http://minutemanbikeway.org/>.

Petty cash: Christopher is now in charge of the ABAC petty cash. Elizabeth will forward the spreadsheet to him.